

1 February 2000

**Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105**

Dear Eric,

I was shocked to learn only recently from the numismatic community of the passing of our friend and colleague, George Mallis, and of his wife, Dorothy, barely a week before him. I have not sent a condolence message to any of his family simply because I don't know where to send it.

George and I were in a dialogue about the possibility of me buying part or all of his counterfeit coin detector (CCD) collection; this is something George had raised with me. As a matter of fact we spoke less than two weeks before his death, when he complained just how poorly he felt of late. Perhaps I should have been suspicious when I hadn't heard from him after the new year.

As a person who I know was close with George, perhaps you are able to shed light on the status of his CCD collection, since I remain interested in procuring some or all of it - I would gratefully appreciate if you could provide me with any information or leads toward this end. I will be out of town from 10-28 February, so I'll be unable to respond, if necessary. Thank you for any help.

Sincerely,

**Jerome R. Katz, ISASC
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854
Tel: 301/279-9320**

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 11, 2000

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

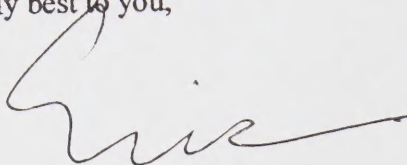
Dear Jerry:

Your letter of February 1, 2000 about the George Mallis situation is at hand. You indicated you would be out of town until February 28, 2000.

If you call me after that I will be glad to talk to you about the situation. I am awaiting information from you on the Snider scale as that would be very helpful to me.

George's health was the reason I hurried the completion of the American scale and counterfeit coin detector book so he could enjoy the publication.

My best to you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

February 11, 2000

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If you call me after that I will be glad to talk to you about the situation. I am awaiting information from you on the snider scale as that would be very helpful to me.

George's health was the reason I hurried the completion of the American scale and counterfeit coin detector book so he could enjoy the publication.

My best to you,

Eric P. Newman

6 April 2000

**Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105**

Dear Eric,

Hope this finds you well. I finally got to my photographic chores. And having caught up, I now have evidence of the Snider CCD which you wanted. I am enclosing herewith two views of the scale which you may keep. I hope it sheds some light on your thinking. I do think Snider had a somewhat different approach for holding the coin on the beam. If you should come up with any thoughts on Snider I would appreciate you sharing them with me.

Has anything further developed regarding the Mallis estate? I still remain interested should anything develop there.

Thanks for your interest, I remain

Sincerely,

**Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854
Tel: 301/279-9320**

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854-5512

April 17, 2000

Dear Jerry:

You asked about the Mallis Estate situation.

George granted us some rights to purchase, etc., items from his metrology collection, but the estate tells me no inventory has been completed as yet. I do not believe he had a coin collection. The net proceeds of his estate after some specific bequests go to two educational institutions.

Knowing your desire to purchase such material we may be able to work with you in a way which will have mutual benefit as we are primarily interested only in collecting and research.

We have had correspondence and communication with the executor's attorney and expect more from that attorney shortly. I am "weighting".

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854-5512

April 17, 2000

Dear Jerry:

Thank you so much for the photograph of the Snider scale.

I notice that there is no slot for a \$1 gold coin.

What I really could appreciate is the detail of the markings on the beam and if there are intervening notches for the poise. The weight of the poise would also be interesting to know. Perhaps the scale could be used for foreign gold coin as well if there were additional notches or markings.

I will appreciate your cooperation.

help

Thrive,

on

*Is the curving band
under the slots
all one piece.*

*See other
file on*

*Bears
Snider Scale*

or

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854-5512

April 17, 2000

Dear Jerry:

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What I really could appreciate is the detail of the markings on the beam and if there are intervening notches on the poise. The weight of the poise would also be interesting to know. Perhaps the scale could be used for foreign gold coin as well if there were additional notches or markings.

Is the curving band under the slots all in one piece?

I will appreciate your help.

Thrive,

4/25/00

Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105

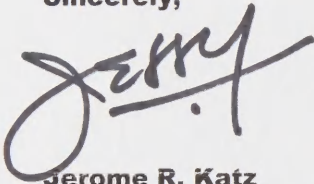
Dear Eric,

Thanks for your letters. The one discussing the status of the Mallis estate sounds like there might be some hope of favorable settlement as far as being able to obtain part of his CCD collection. I hope I'm not reading more into your letter than is really there. Its clearly a case of "wait but don't hold my breath".

With regards the Snider CCD, there is indeed a slot for the \$1. coin. Perhaps the photo is not revealing. The beam to the left of the fulcrum has notches marked as "1, 2 1/2, 5, 10, 20"; no dollar sign. The curved strap which retains the coins is not one piece; each segment is finely soldered at each point where it joins the beam. The best I can do on the weight of the poise is that its just under 10 grams. It is brass with the hanger being steel with a knife edge at the top inside surface so it mates properly with the notches on the beam. I hope this helps you out.

I do appreciate you keeping me informed on the Mallis estate.

Sincerely,



Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

P.S. I'LL BE ATTENDING THE ISASC CONVENTION @ SEATTLE
AND VISITING SOME OLD FRIENDS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.
WILL BE GONE MAY 3-15.

7 Oct 2001

Dear Eric:

I tried phoning you but met with phone interference, perhaps from your computer line.

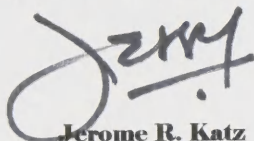
With regard to the Weiss Scale Auction held yesterday, I report that the lot No 174 was mis described in the catalog and hence I did not bid in your behalf. The item was a boxed coin scale in an oval-shaped Japanned metal box, lined in pink silk, with an assortment of English weights. It definitely was not a "miner's scale", and felt it inappropriate to bid in that case.

Prices in general were rather strong for what was offered.

I verify that the rocker you were also interested in was not among the lots. I heard that Mrs Weiss retained about 5% of the collection, so perhaps that's where it resides.

Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Jerome R. Katz

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

October 22, 2001

Dear Jerry:

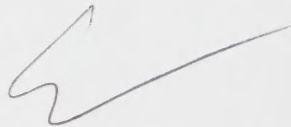
I waited a while to calm down after I read your kind letter of 7 October 2001.
Thank you for using your discretion.

I remember a similar situation where an item at auction was substituted by a visitor or by the auctioneer before the sale so that it could be bought by another person or the visitor without normal compensation.

I hope you were able to obtain lots of nice things for yourself.

I may contact Mrs. Weiss to see if she retained the primary item I was interested in as it was not in the auction list.

My best to you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, sweeping flourish.

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63103

To: Jerome Katz
1108 Pipestem Rd.
Rockville, MD 20854

November 16, 2001

From: Eric P. Newman

Your article in Equilibrium (No.4, p. 2628) indicates you are not aware of the references to Frederick Myers in several portions of our book on coin scales. One scale of his is known and described. Dan Owen's book has no tie to any scale maker and merely lists a similar name. Even the gold ingot matter raises eyebrows.

Do you an Email address? I thought you might want to know the above.

↑
have

Happy Thanksgiving,

1 Dec 2001

**Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105**

I am in receipt of your memo of Nov 16.

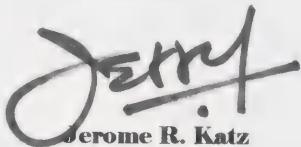
I am indeed familiar with your book on counterfeit coin detectors and the Myers references therein. As you may recall, in my EQM article I stated, "The author has never seen a scale by Myers". Being familiar with your book does not change that fact.

The book by Dan Owens entitled "California Coiners and Assayers" lists Frederick Meyer. I doubt Mr Owens would have related that Meyer to a Frederick Meyer, scalemaker, of Philadelphia, if he did not feel it was the same individual, regardless of the spelling of the name, be it Meyer, Meyers, Myer, or Myers. Owens could have chosen any other Meyer from Philadelphia and not cited trade directory references if he were "merely listing a name".

I continue to believe the Myers cited in your book and the Meyer cited in Owens book are the same individual. I have no reason yet to believe otherwise.

The Email address provided in the ISASC directory is still current. jeromekatz@aol.com

Sincerely,


Jerome R. Katz

Subj: **The Myers Detector Scale matter**
Date: 12/06/2001 9:02:07 PM Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: JEROMEKATZ@AOL.COM

Jerry : You certainly caught me off base on literal grounds. It never occurred to me that you would say you had not seen something but omit that you knew it existed. Touche! As to the Owens book the California reference is so vague that differences of opinion can be expected and are normal. Thanks for your prompt reply. Have a pleasant holiday season. Eric

28 December 2001

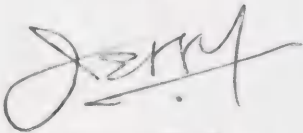
**Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105**

Dear Eric,

Firstly, I'd like to wish you the best for the New Year - may you continue to prosper and stay well.

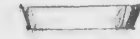
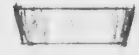
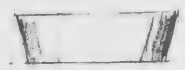
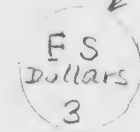
I came across some correspondence I had with George Mallis some time ago, concerning the identification of some weights I have. George was never quite able to help. I do not know whether he ever conferred with you on this matter. If you don't mind, perhaps I might explore your thoughts - what were they used for?, who were "F & S"?, etc. Any help would be appreciated. They are described in the enclosed drawing. Thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry", with a stylized flourish underneath.

**Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854**

Note the "&" sign is omitted
only in these 3 wts



WEIGHT=18gm

wt=9gm.

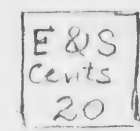
wt=7gm

wt=6gm

wt=4gm.

wt=2gm

WAFER WEIGHTS



WEIGHTS & WAFERS
ARE ALL BRASS.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

January 2, 2002

Dear Jerry:

The problem presented in your December 28, 2001 letter is very new to me and fascinating. I am really challenged by it and I will be glad to work on it. George Mallis never asked me about it.

Before I begin I suggest you reweigh the weights and obtain more accurate weighings. For example the combined weight of the \$3 and \$2 show 10 grams and the \$5 weight is listed as 9 grams. Some others are not in proportion to each other.

This could not be for American gold coins because of the denominations but might be a for pure gold weighing.

They would not be for a silver coin or bullion scale because the values on the weights are too high.

The values might be for some other material or commodity sold by weight.

Could F & S stand for French and Spanish gold coin rather than the name of the maker? These countries had identical fineness in their gold coins as compared to England and Portugal.

Happy New Year. Let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Newman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

~~Star~~

4 Dollar should weigh

Please remove ^{more accurately} the weights as ~~they~~ ^{some} are not in proportion. For example the shown combined weights of \$3 and \$2 are 10 grams and the \$5 is 9 grams. The \$10 is 18 grams ~~which is times~~ and the \$5

These could not relate to gold coin because of the marking ^{on} the small weights. They could relate to gold ore.

If it relates to silver it would have ~~the~~ ~~before~~

1795
\$10
17.50 gms
16.718
grams

Silver
1795\$
13.48 grams for 50¢
26.96 grams for \$1.00
13.36

15 Jan 2002

Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Thanks for the reply. I have re-weighed the weights on a digital scale with somewhat more accuracy, which may provide you the consistency among the weights, but essentially the weighings are still in the same "ballpark" as what I had sent you previously.

The new weights are:

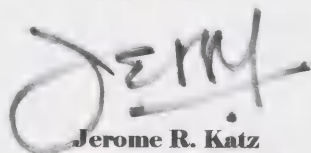
| S | Grams | |
|----|-------|--------------|
| 10 | 17.8 | 274.7 grains |
| 5 | 8.9 | 137.4 |
| 4 | 7.1 | 109.6 |
| 3 | 5.4 | 83.3 |
| 2 | 3.6 | 55.6 |
| 1 | 1.8 | 27.8 grains |

I tend to agree with you that they are not related to gold coins, but I have a strong feeling that the initials "F&S" are in fact related to a U.S. based company and not some country's standard unit. If the weights were used in the weighing and valuing of pure gold, then one would need a table of the value of gold per gram by time period. If the value of gold remained constant for a long period then dating the set becomes a bit vague, to say nothing of finding out who were "F&S"???

The prospects of you having this kind of historical data are no doubt better than mine. I hope you can help, but if you feel it becomes too much of a research project please let me know.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,



Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

March 11, 2002

Dear Jerry:

I am sorry I had to neglect your project because I had too many research projects to keep up with. I think I have good news for you.

By the Act of Feb. 9, 1793, the U.S. passed a law regulating foreign coin and provided that after July 1, 1793 foreign coin for three years should pass as money within the United States as legal tender at specified rates. The Act was renewed several times so as to expire April 10, 1809. It provided: "Of gold coins of France, Spain and the dominions of Spain of their present standard, at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty -seven grains and two-fifths of a grain of the actual weight thereof."

This is so very close to your weighings that I believe F & S means France and Spain. I find that 1 gram equals 15.4323 grains and that there can be no other use for your weights except for buying normal, worn, filed or clipped gold coin of any denomination of France or Spain by a bank or dealer and automatically knowing their value in dollars.

I hope this helps you as it makes sense to me as to what the weights are for. You are fortunate to have found such interesting items.

Thrive,

Eric P. Newman

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854

March 11, 2002

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Thrive,

Eric P. Newman

25 March 2002

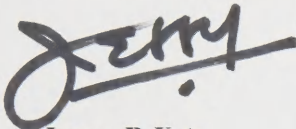
**Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105**

Dear Eric,

Your reply to the mystery weights is in hand and thanks for the research. What you have given me hangs together quite well. Now for the coup de grace - The same gent who offered me the first set has now discovered in his family archives a second set, virtually identical to the first but with "US" stamped on the weights vice "F&S". If the "US" would be "United States", then that perhaps reinforces your theory about "F&S" representing "France and Spain" rather than the name of a company? Anyway I am pleased to have them..

Will I see you at the ISASC Convention at Pittsburgh? If not, thanks again for all the help..

I like your closing message "thrive". On occasion I employ "keep between the ditches", but maybe that's a bit too rustic.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

**Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854**

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Rd.
Rockville, MO 20854

April 2, 2002

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for keeping me informed as to the weights.

Does your source wish to sell his "second" set? Maybe his family were making these items long ago and had trouble selling them these items and got stuck with a remainder. Offer him the same as you paid for your set, add a reasonable commission for you and get them for me. I deserve it for doing all the research. Perhaps the reason he told you he had another set is because he wanted to sell it

Thanks,

Eric P. Newman

10 April 2002

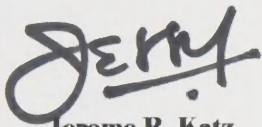
**Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave
St Louis, MO 63105**

Dear Eric,

Since our last correspondence I've had reconstructive surgery on my right hand, so I'm doing limited writing (typing). Under the circumstances it's a benefit that I am left-handed.

I can report that at this time the weights are NOT for sale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry" with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Jerome R. Katz
1108 Pipestem Place
Rockville, MD 20854**